AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (canceled)

13. **(currently amended)** A rivet, comprising:

a nut having a through opening;

a stem passable through the opening of said nut which is slidable along said stem ~~without being rotatable about said stem~~, said stem having upper and lower ends and a notched portion located between said upper and lower ends;

a head at [[an]] the upper end of said stem;

said nut further comprising, on an inner face of the opening, at least one tooth engageable with said notched portion; and

a locking element ~~joined to said stem adjacent said head, said locking element being~~ elastically moveable between a folded position and a locked ~~an expanded~~ position, wherein said ~~expanded~~ locking element has a greater radial extent in the ~~expanded~~ locked position than in the folded position;

wherein ~~said opening extends circumferentially for a full 360 degrees in at least a portion of said nut~~

said locking element comprises:

a first section being elastically deformable and having a proximal end joined to said stem at a first location, and a distal end, wherein said locking element further has, between the folded and locked positions, a relaxed position in which said first section extends obliquely upwardly towards

said head; and

a second section having a proximal end and a distal end and a middle portion therebetween, said second section being joined to the distal end of said first section at said middle portion, wherein, in the relaxed position, said second section extends obliquely downwardly away from said head; and

said stem further comprises, at a second location closer to said head than said first location, a flange facing, in an axial direction of said stem, towards said head, said flange defining a blocking surface on which a lower surface of the proximal end of said second section rests in the locked position.

14. **(currently amended)** The rivet of claim 13, wherein said opening extends circumferentially for a full 360 degrees in at least a portion of said nut and ~~circumferential~~ less than 360 degrees in a remaining portion of said nut where a circumferential wall of said opening is interrupted by at least one slot enabling said opening to be radially expansible in the remaining portion of said nut.

15. (previously presented) The rivet of claim 14, wherein the inner face of the circumferential wall of said opening in the remaining portion of said nut carries said at least one tooth.

16. **(currently amended)** The rivet of claim 14, wherein the circumferential wall of said opening in the remaining portion of said nut is interrupted by two said slots and comprises two radially expansible legs located circumferentially between said slots, said at least one tooth being provided on the inner face of at least one of said [[leg]] legs.

17. **(currently amended)** The rivet of claim 16, wherein the inner face of each of said legs includes at least a curved section carrying said at least one [[said]] tooth and a flat section free

of said at least one tooth;

said stem comprising on an outer surface thereof two flat sections corresponding to the flat sections of said two legs of said nut, respectively.

18. (previously presented) The rivet of claim 17, wherein

the outer surface of said stem further comprises two curved sections located circumferentially between the flat sections of the outer surface of said stem;

the flats sections of the outer surface of said stem extend longitudinally into the notched portion of said stem; and

the curved sections of the outer surface of said stem in the notched portion include a plurality of teeth engageable with said at least one tooth of said nut.

19. (previously presented) The rivet of claim 18, being entirely made of a single material.

20. (previously presented) The rivet of claim 16, wherein the inner face of each of said legs includes a flat section free of said at least one tooth and two curved sections on opposite sides of said flat section, each of said curved sections being located between the flat section and one of said two slots and carrying at least one said tooth.

21. **(currently amended)** The rivet of claim 13, ~~wherein said locking element is elastically joined to said stem at a first location adjacent said head,~~

~~said rivet~~ further comprising a return foot extending from said stem, at a second location further from said head than said first location, towards said head, said return foot being elastically compressible by said locking element when said locking element is in the folded position to bias said locking element into the expanded position.

22. (previously presented) The rivet of claim 21, wherein said return foot, said stem, said head and said locking element are all made integrally from the same material.

23. **(currently amended)** A rivet, comprising:

a nut having a through opening;

a stem passable through the opening of said nut which is slidable along said stem without being rotatable about said stem, said stem having opposite upper and lower ends and a notched portion between said upper and lower ends;

a head at the upper end of said stem;

said nut further comprising, on an inner face of the opening, at least one tooth engageable with said notched portion; and

a locking element joined to said stem adjacent said head, said locking element being elastically moveable between a folded position and an expanded position, wherein said locking element has a greater radial extent in the expanded position than in the folded position;

wherein said opening extends circumferentially for a full 360 degrees in at least a portion of said nut, and ~~The rivet of claim 13, wherein~~ said locking element further has a locked position in which said locking element has a greater radial extend than in the expanded position;

said locking element being elastically joined to said stem at a first location adjacent said head;

said stem further comprising, at a second location closer to said head than said first location, a reduced cross section portion defining a flange facing, in an axial direction of said stem, towards said head, said flange defining a blocking surface on which a lower surface of said locking element rests in the locked position.

24. **(currently amended)** The rivet of claim 23, wherein

said head has, on a underside thereof, a stop surface facing, in the axial direction of said stem, towards the lower end of said stem; and

said locking element further has an opposite, upper surface ~~surfaces~~ which, in the locked position, ~~rest on~~ rests on said ~~blocking and~~ stop ~~surfaces, respectively~~ surface.

25. (previously presented) The rivet of claim 24, wherein said blocking and stop surfaces are substantially parallel and spaced from one another by a distance substantially equal to a thickness of said locking element defined between said opposite surfaces of the locking element.

26. **(currently amended)** The rivet of claim [[14]] 13, wherein said second section is connected to said stem exclusively via said first section ~~locking element has opposite proximal and distal ends, wherein the proximal end is elastically joined to said stem adjacent said head, and the distal end is a free end~~ without being directly attached to ~~any part of said rivet~~ said stem or said head.

27. **(currently amended)** ~~A rivet, comprising:~~

~~a nut having a through opening;~~

The rivet of claim 13, wherein said stem is a solid stem; and ~~passable through the opening of said nut which is slidable along said stem without being rotatable about said stem, said stem having a notched portion;~~

~~a head at an end of said stem;~~

~~said nut further comprising, on an inner face of the opening, at least one tooth engageable with said notched portion; and~~

~~a locking element joined to said stem adjacent said head, said locking element being elastically moveable between a folded position and an expanded position, wherein said expanded element has a greater radial extent in the expanded position than in the folded position;~~

wherein said opening, said head and said solid stem are coaxially arranged.

28. (previously presented) The rivet of claim 27, wherein said solid stem and said

opening have matching cross sections each comprising two convexly curved sections connected by two flat sections.

29-30. (canceled)

31. **(currently amended)** The rivet of claim [[29]] 16, wherein said nut in a region of said slots has a frusto-conical outer surface converging toward said head.

32. (canceled)

33. **(new)** The rivet of claim 13, wherein

said head has, on a underside thereof, a stop surface facing, in the axial direction of said stem, towards the lower end of said stem; and

said distal end of said second section has an upper surface which, in the locked position, rests on said stop surface.

34. **(new)** The rivet of claim 33, wherein said blocking and stop surfaces are substantially parallel and spaced, in the axial direction of said stem, from one another by a distance substantially equal to a thickness of said second section.

35. **(new)** The rivet of claim 33, wherein the underside of said head and said flange are connected by a radially inwardly curved outer surface of said stem, said radially inwardly curved outer surface defining a cavity into which the proximal end of said second section is partially received in the locked position.